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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CRAIG BLUMER EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

**KALAMAZOO, MI — 12/23/2021** The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Craig Blumer has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Blumer started teaching in 2009 at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. Instructing part-time in airplanes, Blumer pursued soaring operations and instructed in gliders on his downtime. He earned a gold seal with a combination of glider and airplane students in 2012.

He departed instruction to pursue airship operations and operated various blimps

over national events such as the Super Bowl. Directing blimps around the United States, Blumer obtained an MEI, single engine seaplane rating, multi engine ATP, and started training coworkers to operate airships. He earned a master CFI in 2014 and was the first blimp pilot to obtain the accreditation.

Blumer pursued air traffic control and obtained ratings in the terminal environment for radar and tower operations. He worked at the Springfield, Illinois tower and trained controllers for air traffic ratings at KSPI. He conducts briefings specializing in air traffic communications and procedures as a FAAS Team Representative. He delivers these briefings in-person and online to groups of pilots.



As an air traffic controller, Blumer continued flight instructing in his 1946 Piper J3 Cub. He offers tailwheel training and sponsors the annual Jane Berg Tailwheel Scholarship. The selected scholarship applicant receives training and obtains a tailwheel endorsement.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor Accreditation** is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition, candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).*

*Members of the **National Association of Flight Instructors** work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in 30 countries, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit [www.NAFINet.org](http://www.NAFINet.org).*